

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SAIGON 09140 240705 Z

14

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 CIEP-02

LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 PA-03 USIA-12 PRS-01 RSR-01 /105 W
----- 020245

R 240400 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2084

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 9140

E. O. 11652 GDS

TAGS ECON, VS

SUBJECT : GVN ECONOMIC ORGANIZATION

1. WHEN I SAW THE PRIME MINISTER TUESDAY AFTERNOON, HE TOLD ME HE HAD JUST COME FROM SIX- HOUR SESSION WITH THE PRESIDENT AND OTHERS ON ECONOMIC ORGANIZATION. PROBLEM FOCUSES ON THE WAY TO ORGANIZE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON REHABILITATION, RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT. PRESIDENT WILL HEAD THIS COUNCIL, BUT REAL POWER COULD AND SHOULD REST WITH ITS SECRETARY GENERAL, WHO WOULD PREPARE PROGRAMS FOR COUNCIL APPROVAL. PRIME MINISTER SAID HE HAD SUPPORTED NGOC FOR THIS POST, BUT THAT PRESIDENT HAD NOT BEEN WILLING TO GO ALONG. THE DECISION APPARENTLY STILL HAS NOT BEEN MADE.

2. OUR POSITION, WHICH I STATED TO PRIME MINISTER, IS IN THE FIRST PLACE THAT SOME ONE OFFICIAL SHOULD BE GIVEN AUTHORITY OVER MAIN LINES ECONOMIC POLICY. WE SAW THE COUNCIL AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO DO THIS, AND FAVORED APPOINTING NGOC, BUT ONLY IF HE WERE GIVEN AN ADEQUATE STAFF AND A MANDATE TO ACT.
WHITEHOUSE

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NMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: VS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 MAY 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973SAIGON09140
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: SAIGON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730553/aaaajsqb.tel
Line Count: 52
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 1
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 DEC 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06-Dec-2001 by shawdg>; APPROVED <26 FEB 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> mcm 980304
Subject: GVN ECONOMIC ORGANIZATION
TAGS: ECON
To: EA
SECSTATE WASHDC
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005